

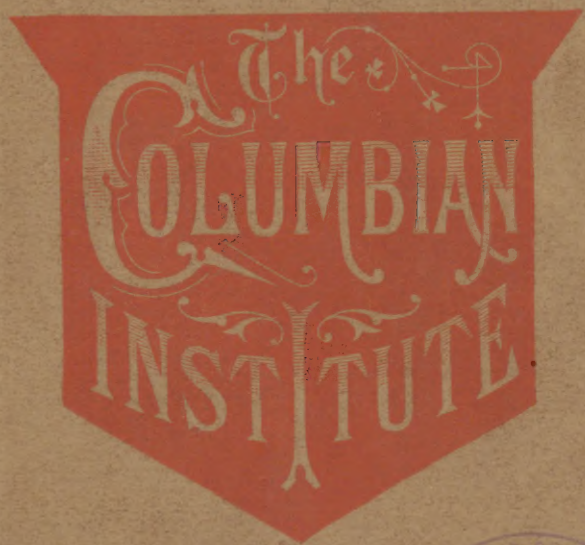
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Box 288



Columbian (The) Institute

Dr Welch



The Columbian Institute

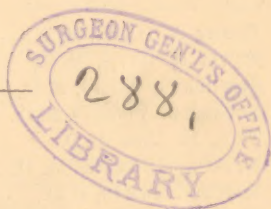
FOR THE

PRESERVATION OF HEALTH

AND THE

Cure of Chronic Diseases,

142 East 34th St.



New York :

RUSSELL BROTHERS, PRINTERS,

17, 19, 21, 23 ROSE STREET,

1882.

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AUGUSTUS N. LINDSLEY,
JAMES P. FOSTER,

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FRANK J. OTTARSON,
EDWIN H. DAVIS, M. D.,
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Medical Director and Physician in Chief.

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PROSPECTUS.

THE Institute is organized under the general laws of the State of New York, with a capital of \$25,000 (to be increased), divided into 1,250 shares of \$20 each, so that it is a regularly authorized corporation.

The benefits of the Institute may be enjoyed by all classes. The rich can avail themselves of them by paying such sums as are deemed wise by the officers; those having but small means will not be excluded on that account, but will be required to pay some remuneration for treatment; the poor will receive as much attention as other patients, free of cost, the charitable department being a permanent feature of the Institute.

The agencies of the Institute are thrown open to the faculty of New York, for the benefit of their office patients. In this way every physician in the city has at his command all the special appliances which he requires for the cure of chronic diseases, to be used by experts, in accordance with his instructions, and under the rules of the most delicate professional etiquette.

A portion of its rooms will be set aside for resident patients, who may desire to be treated by their own physicians unconnected with it in an official capacity, who will enjoy the benefit of all the remedial agencies that it affords, with constant attention, and without any interference by the Medical Board, except to enforce an observance of its rules.

The by-laws have been so framed and adopted as to place all matters of a medical nature, and those involving any question of professional ethics, exclusively within the jurisdiction of the Medical Board.

The Institute comprehends, in its purposes and design, every remedial agency and all forms of medical and surgical treatment known to medical science. Already it contains every kind of bath and all other appliances necessary for its work.

The Board, as at present constituted, includes specialists in general chronic diseases, in general surgery, in orthopedic and uterine surgery, in medical gynecology, in diseases of the throat, skin, eye and ear, and of the nervous system, and in surgical electricity.

The Institute is established on a broad humanitarian and scientific basis, and it will be the desire of the gentlemen who preside over its various departments to increase its usefulness and efficiency as rapidly and thoroughly as public and professional support and encouragement will warrant.

ITS ESTABLISHMENT.

A proposition was made some time ago to establish in the City of New York an institution, on the broadest professional and scientific basis, for the cure of chronic diseases. It was received with great favor by the medical faculty, and by a large body of citizens at a public meeting which was called by the Mayor, and a number of other prominent gentlemen representing different professions; which was presided over by Everett P. Wheeler, Esq., and which was addressed by him; by Chancellor Crosby; by E. H. Davis, M. D., one of the founders of the New York Medical College, and the first professor of *materia medica* therein; by the Rev. Edward McGlynn, D. D., of St. Stephen's Church; and by Henry A. Hartt, M. D., the originator of the movement. A committee was appointed on that occasion to carry forward the enterprise, which, after much deliberation, decided that its benefits should be extended equally to the rich and the poor; that, while its main object should ever be the cure of disease, it should include in its beneficent work the preservation of health; that it should be founded and managed by a joint stock association; and that it should be divided into two sections, which should be furnished alike with remedies and implements, and supplied with equal medical skill; one paying, the other charitable; one established and sustained by the funds of the association, the other by donations and legacies.

After the usual difficulties and delays which attend the inauguration of works of magnitude for the benefit of mankind, the institution is now in operation at 142 East 34th Street. It proposes not merely to relieve exacerbations, but to cure all curable chronic diseases; and it proposes to demonstrate by incontestable facts the entire curability, by orthodox and scientific methods, of a large majority of these diseases, and even of those among them which, from various causes easily understood, have been generally abandoned, not only by ordinary practitioners, but also by

physicians of eminence and skill in other branches of practice, as utterly hopeless and unmanageable. It proposes, as far as its influence may reach, to vindicate the art of medicine from the miserable slanders which are hurled against it from every quarter, and to show that it is not the uncertain and deceptive *ignis fatuus* which it is so often represented to be, but that it is a true and steady light to guide and save us when lost in the dark and dreary labyrinths of suffering and pain. It proposes to show that the poisons of rheumatism, gout, rheumatic gout, and malaria are disarmed of their terrors, because their sure and infallible antidotes have been found; and that the chronic congestions produced by them, as well as those that arise from other causes, in the throat, spine, joints, and in the liver, kidneys, lungs and other internal organs, including bronchitis, asthma, catarrh, dyspepsia, albuminuria, gastrodynia, and so forth, as well as affections of the skin and nervous system, and those which are classed under the general head of gynecology, can, in a vast proportion of cases, under proper conditions, and in a reasonable time, be thoroughly and perfectly cured.

The fundamental idea of the institute is that the cure of chronic diseases demands a wise and skillful combination of internal and external treatment, and, therefore, it provides Turkish, Russian and Roman baths; all kinds of medicated vapor, sulphur, mercurial and iodine baths, and every description of fumigation; massage; Swedish movements; inhalation; with electro-magnetism and galvanism, either separately, or in water, air, vapor, or fumigation baths.

The neglect of the use of these agencies by the regular faculty, and the virtual surrender of them into the hands of medical men who have substituted hygienic crudities for the art of medicine, or of ignorant charlatans, both of whom have invariably claimed that their dietetic methods and favorite appliances were the grand, sufficient, and only means of cure, have led to a general divorce from each other, in the popular mind, of remedies which science has joined together. From the nature of these external forces, physicians, for the most part, cannot properly and safely avail themselves of them unless they are proffered to them in a public and professional institution; and this fact supplies the only excuse for their past disuse by the profession.

The manly and generous course pursued by the medical

faculty of New York in their almost unanimous indorsement of the Institute in its inception, furnishes a satisfactory guarantee that now when it is established, and has thrown open its doors for the benefit of their office patients, with the pledge that, as soon as it shall be sufficiently developed, a portion of its rooms will be reserved for the accommodation of resident patients who may desire to be treated by them within its walls; and when the opportunity is afforded them of becoming stockholders, and thereby part owners and controllers, they will come forward at once and give it their entire confidence and cordial co-operation and support.

The friends of the Institute have reason to rejoice and give thanks to God for this auspicious commencement of its important task. It has reached a stage in which it can confidently appeal to the wisdom of the capitalist, and to the sympathy of the philanthropist. Organized under the laws of the State, with a board of trustees and a medical board; equipped with every kind of bath and all other auxiliaries necessary for its work; constructed and managed upon a plan which gives every physician, naturally and necessarily, an interest in its professional success, and affords him an opportunity of enjoying its medical facilities and of participating in its financial advantages; standing alone, without a rival, with thousands of sufferers, rich and poor, in the city and throughout the country, who will hail the announcement of its establishment as that of a modern Bethesda; it requires no prophetic vision to read its destiny, for it holds within itself the promise and pledge of a certain triumph, and the full realization and accomplishment of its pecuniary, scientific and humanitarian objects. It needs only now that those who understand its history and are interested in its efforts, shall stand by it for a time, and sustain it not only with subscriptions to its stock, but also with donations, that it may be able to meet the demands made upon its charitable department.

The following letters are inserted in consequence of their bearing upon the latter point. They are published with the consent of the writer: NEW YORK, *July 11, 1882.*

DEAR DOCTOR:

31 ST. MARK'S PLACE.

The bearer of this, a member of a sick relief society, of which I am the physician in charge, had a luxation of the shoulder joint on the 5th of last month. It was immediate-

ly reduced at the New York Hospital, but the weakness resulting from the effects of the injury and reduction renders him unable to work.

Have you in your Columbian Institute, the inauguration of which you have been kind enough to communicate to me recently, the facilities for treating just such cases as these? For I think that systematic massage with, perhaps, regular hot air or vapor baths, would benefit the condition of this patient's shoulder joint greatly.

By replying, you would greatly oblige,

Yours truly,

GEO. W. RACHEL, M. D.

NEW YORK, *July 11, 1882.*

31 ST. MARK'S PLACE.

DEAR DOCTOR:

Your favor in reply to my letter to you has been received and read with satisfaction by me. I am really very glad that you have established the institution which has been the goal of your endeavors for many years.

I am loath to prescribe any rules to the house surgeon, who supervises the treatment of those cases to which that of my patient belongs.

A vapor bath, followed by active and passive resistant motions of the arm in the direction of backward, upward, and lateral rotation, and finishing up with good massage of all the muscles of the shoulder joint especially, seems to me to be indicated. Very truly yours,

GEORGE W. RACHEL, M. D.

RECEPTION.

Prior to the establishment of the Institute, a reception was held by its organizers, a report of which is appended.

It was announced by the following circular:

NEW YORK, *Nov. 23, 1881.*

A reception by the Trustees, Officers and Medical Board of the Columbian Institute, will be held at the St. Nicholas Hotel, Parlor 233, Broadway and Spring Street, on Wednesday, the 30th inst., at 8 o'clock p. m.

A paper on the nature, objects and necessity of the enterprise will be presented by Henry A. Hartt, M. D., and remarks made by Rev. R. S. Storrs, D. D., Prof. E. H. Davis, M. D., Rev. J. P. Newman, D. D., Wm. J. Curtis, Esq., Rev. W. F. Morgan, D. D., Rev. A. P. Putnam, D. D., and others.

The undersigned have engaged to attend :

OSWALD OTTENDORFER, Esq.,	CHARLES H. KERNER, Esq.,
ADOLPH HALLGARTEN, Esq.,	JOHN G. MUSGRAVE, Esq.,
EVERETT P. WHEELER, Esq.,	JAMES FLANAGAN, Esq.,
ELBRIDGE T. GERRY, Esq.,	C. P. HUNTINGTON, Esq.,
CORNELIUS VANDERBILT, Esq.,	STEPHEN R. LESHER, Esq.,
W. W. ASTOR, Esq.,	GEORGE H. MÖLLER, Esq.,
RIPLEY ROPES, Esq.,	GEORGE N. CURTIS, Esq.,
R. FULTON CUTTING, Esq.,	N. P. STANTON, Esq.,
SAMUEL BOWNE DURYEA, Esq.,	HENRY OFFERMANN, Esq.,
Rev. F. G. KROTEL, D. D.,	O. AHRENS, Esq.,
DORMAN B. EATON, Esq.,	JOHN CASTREE, Esq.,
PHILIP BISSINGER, Esq.,	ROBERT G. GREGG, Esq.,
WILLIAM MERTENS, Esq.,	A. A. SCHEIDLER, Esq.,
SHEPPARD KNAPP, Esq.,	JOHN C. BESSON, Esq.,
JOHN H. DEANE, Esq.,	H. H. HANKINS, Esq.,
Rev. THOMAS ARMITAGE, D. D.,	BOWLES COLGATE, Esq.,
WILLIAM STEINWAY, Esq.,	CHARLES S. SHULTZ, Esq.,
A. B. BAYLIS, JR., Esq.,	WILLIAM COLGATE, Esq.,
SAMUEL MCLEAN, Esq.,	JACOB SCHWEITZER, Esq.,
URIAH WELCH, Esq.,	J. F. WYCKOFF, Esq.,
HENRY BELDEN, JR., Esq.,	HENRY J. ROBINSON, Esq., and others.

THE PRESIDENT, on taking the chair, said : I am happy to welcome so large a number of gentlemen to this reception. My own connection with the Institute arises from personal experience of some of its proposed advantages, and I am persuaded that it is a necessity of the age for the relief of human suffering. It seems strange to me that medical science which, during the last century, has made such wonderful progress in many directions, has not provided for the cure of chronic maladies. Your attention is now invited to a discussion of the nature of a new enterprise for this purpose, undertaken on a basis which joins in indissoluble bonds the elements of profit and charity, and which is equally fitted to attract the man of business and the philanthropist. I trust, therefore, that you will all find, in the feast which we furnish this evening, something adapted to your tastes, and that you will manifest, before we part, your appreciation of the good things which we set before you, in a manner befitting the occasion.

After the remarks of the president, the secretary read a number of letters highly commendatory of the enterprise.

ST. THOMAS' RECTORY,
1 WEST 53D ST., *Nov. 30, 1881.*

MY DEAR DR. HARTT :

As I had reason to fear, engagements which are imperative will hinder me from attending the meeting this evening, to which I was so kindly invited. I need not say that I regret the necessity which prevents me from co-operating with you and other gentlemen, in furtherance of an institution which promises so much for the

relief of human suffering. I feel assured that your scheme is such, that in the end it will carry with it universal approbation and interest.

Very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM F. MORGAN.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30, 1881.

MY DEAR DR. HARTT:

I regret very much that, in consequence of severe indisposition, I shall not be able to attend the reception this evening. My opinion, expressed long ago, in reference to the necessity of your enterprise, and of the great benefits it will confer upon the profession, and upon humanity at large, remains unchanged. I trust the time has arrived when the capitalists will come forward and crown your labors with success.

Ever yours truly,

E. H. DAVIS, M. D.

175 East 82d St.

2 WEST 46TH ST., N. Y., Nov. 29, 1881.

HENRY A. HARTT, M. D.

My Dear Sir: Your notice of the reception of the Columbian Institute is received.

I regret to say that the sore throat from which I have suffered for the past month, continues with severity enough to forbid exposure in the night air, and so I shall be deprived of the pleasure of meeting with you to-morrow night.

This I regret the more, in view of the importance of the object contemplated, and the promise that the assembly will present many attractions of an elevating and edifying character. With many warm regards for your success, I am,

Yours affectionately,

THOMAS ARMITAGE.

73 EAST 53D ST., N. Y.

MR. C. O. H. SMITH, *Secretary Columbian Institute*:

After reading with great pleasure the prospectus, also the book entitled "Columbian Institute," by Dr. Henry A. Hartt, I hereby endorse his views, and hope the time is near at hand when such an institute as he proposes can be founded, where any regular physician can place his patients, and have the care and control of their treatment, with the assistance of the many remedial appliances that it would be supplied with. I earnestly commend it to those who desire to aid suffering humanity.

Yours sincerely,

C. W. SANDERS, M. D.

At the request of the president, Dr. Hartt proceeded to read a

PAPER

On the Nature, Objects, and Necessity of the Institute.

Diseases are divided into two classes, acute and chronic. Acute diseases generally begin suddenly, are more or less violent in character, and run their course rapidly to a favorable or an unfavorable issue. By chronic diseases are meant diseases of long standing. They sometimes come on in an obscure manner, and in a passive form, but more frequently they are the results of acute diseases which have only partially yielded to treatment. They require, in addition to appropriate internal remedies, the employment of a number of external agencies and appliances, which are not needed in the management of acute diseases, which no physician can command in his own office, or at the residences of his patients, and which can never be made available to the faculty at large and to the people universally, as long as

they shall be restricted to private institutions conducted merely for purposes of gain.

The general hospitals are intended only for acute diseases, and, therefore, are not fitted, either by their construction or equipment, for the proper and successful treatment of chronic maladies, and rightfully reject them.

There are a few establishments which treat specific forms of chronic disease, such as the Woman's Hospital, the Hospital for the Ruptured and Crippled, and infirmaries for the eye and ear; but the only institutions which habitually treat all forms of chronic disease are the Charity Hospital and the dispensaries.

The Hospital is an institution of the city, under the direction of the Board of Charities and Correction, and is practically a branch of Bellevue, for the treatment of chronic cases. It is situated on Blackwell's Island, and is carried on at an expenditure of about one hundred and thirty-four thousand dollars a year. It is not furnished with special agencies, and it is well understood that it aims to afford temporary relief, rather than to effect radical and permanent cures. By means of an earnest and laborious effort, an appropriation might, I doubt not, be obtained from the city government to supply it with all the necessary appendages for the fulfilment of its object; but its locality must forever form an insurmountable obstacle thereto. A large proportion of patients who suffer from chronic diseases can go to and fro, and are, therefore, fit subjects for office or dispensary practice. A great municipal institution, then, for the treatment and cure of these affections should embrace in its provisions the chief dispensary of the city. But a dispensary on Blackwell's Island is an impossibility. Besides, this class of diseases presents the most intricate problems in medicine, which

demand for their solution the ripest experience, and most consummate skill. But physicians of experience and skill are generally engaged in extensive practice, and could not give a sufficient portion of their time and attention to an institution so remote from their regular field of labor, and so difficult of access.

The dispensaries, also, are totally unfurnished with the agencies and appliances which are essential in the treatment of chronic diseases.

The principal medical officer of one of the most prominent in this city, after candidly admitting that it did not profess to do more than relieve exacerbations, remarked, that there were fifteen physicians connected with it, all of whom were engaged in private practice, and yet gave their services without remuneration. There was not one among them who could afford to devote more than an hour a day to the task, while each had a class of from sixty to seventy patients. Who, then, can marvel if, to the popular cry, "No cure, no pay," they give the response, "No pay, no cure?"

Now, we propose to establish in this metropolis an institution, the first of its kind in the history of the world, which shall truly represent the art of medicine in these modern times.

We propose to furnish it with hygienic and curative agencies of every description—with baths, medicated and unmedicated, hot and cold water, Turkish, Russian, Roman, thermo-electric, sulphur, mercurial, and turpentine; with instruments for inhalation, for rubbing and passive motion, and for the administration of electro-magnetism and galvanism; and with every apparatus and means for physical culture. We propose to have at our command, both for internal and external use, all the medicines that

nature has given us in the animal, vegetable, and mineral kingdoms, by whomsoever discovered or recommended, which shall be able to render us material and efficient aid.

We purpose to have a department for every form of curable chronic disease, with a thoroughly competent medical man at its head, and on the staff an eminent scientist, who shall restrict himself to the business of research.

The external appliances of the institution will be placed under the management of trained attendants, who will be subject at all times to the surveillance and direction of the Medical Board.

The original design was to found an institution mainly for the cure of those who labor under the double misfortune of chronic disease and poverty; but before much progress had been made, it was decided that its benefits should be equally extended to wealthy patients; and, furthermore, that, inasmuch as it would be equipped with every kind of bath and gymnastic apparatus, the scope of its operations should be enlarged so as to include among them the preservation of health.

It is divided into two sections. The first is assigned to those who use baths and other agencies for hygienic purposes, or as luxuries, and who are able to pay for them the regular rates, and to wealthy patients afflicted with chronic diseases. It is established by means of a joint-stock association, with a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars, divided into shares of twenty dollars each. A prominent financier, in a paper prepared by him, says: "In a financial aspect, the institution will afford, in its paying section, an excellent opportunity for profitable investment by returning dividends on the capital stock. An estimate of receipts and expenses, based

upon fifty resident and seventy-five non-resident patients, shows that with a capital of twenty-five thousand dollars the net profits give the following liberal percentage to the stockholders :

RECEIPTS.

50 Resident Patients, at \$20 per week, .	\$52,000
75 Visiting Patients, " \$8 " " .	31,200
	<hr/>
	\$83,200

EXPENSES.

Rent of Building, one year,	\$6,000
House Expenses, per week, \$500, . . .	26,000
Depreciation of Furniture, 12½ per cent,	1,563
Advertising, \$5,000. Contingent Ex-	
penses, \$5,000,	10,000
	<hr/>
	\$43,563

Balance to the credit of Institute, . \$39,637

No allowance is herein provided for the salaries of the medical officers and the general superintendent. But after a sufficient reduction shall have been made for this purpose, a large amount will still remain for distribution among the investors.

The second section is set apart for those who can afford to pay only small sums, and for those who cannot afford to pay anything. It is sustained by a separate fund supplied by charitable donations and legacies. In consequence of its thorough equipment, it will inevitably attract, in multitudes, the poor who shall be suffering from chronic diseases, and by restoring to them the power to labor, will confer upon them and upon society a boon the worth of which no words or figures can adequately

describe. I have been informed by the founder of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, that a sum amounting to more than half a million of dollars has been contributed during the last thirteen years to that laudable charity. May we not hope that the disciples of Him who said, "Ye are of more value than many sparrows," will give to this department of our institute a yet more liberal endowment?

All the special agencies and facilities of the Institute will be thrown open to the Faculty of New York and its vicinity for the benefit of their office patients. A portion also of its room will be reserved for resident patients, who may desire to be treated by their own physicians, in an official capacity.

It has been my design from the beginning that the Institute shall be, not only cosmopolitan, non-political, and non-sectarian, but also thoroughly professional in its standing and character. Its nature, and the plan upon which it is founded, will create a reciprocal interest between it and the Faculty, and make them mutually dependent upon each other. Aiming, as it will, at a financial as well as a scientific success, it must rely, to a great extent, upon the confidence and co-operation of the profession, and whosoever its governors may be, unless they shall be smitten with suicidal fatuity, they will never forfeit these inestimable advantages; while, on the other hand, the benefits which it proffers the Faculty in the use of its agencies, and in the reception and general care of patients under their treatment, together with the opportunity it offers them through subscriptions to the stock department, of becoming part owners and directors, will bind them to it with cords which will never be broken. Already, two hundred of the medical men of

New York, after a limited canvass, have become subscribers. I hope it will not be long before all of them, without exception, will see that their duty to themselves, as well as to others, demands that they shall combine with me, and those associated with me, to stamp it ineffaceably with the professional seal, so that no stain of charlatanism shall ever be permitted to pollute it, nor the accursed spirit of cliqueism to enter its hallowed portals.

The undertaking, in its original form, was approved and indorsed by four-fifths of the physicians and surgeons of this city, in the following terms :

The undersigned, members of the Medical Faculty of New York, recognize the necessity of the Hospital proposed by Dr. Hartt for the cure of chronic diseases, both for the benefit of the poor who are suffering therefrom, and of the profession, as affording an opportunity to medical students to examine their nature and treatment. We, therefore, earnestly recommend the immediate establishment of such an institution in this city.

J. MARION SIMS, M. D.,

*Founder of Woman's Hospital, and President
of Am. Med. Association.*

ALONZO CLARK, M. D.,

*Prof. Path. and Prac. Med. Col. Phy. and
Sur., Pres. Fac., and Vis. Ph. Bel. Hosp.*

And eight hundred and thirty-two others.

A physician who resides in Saratoga Springs, and who is the proprietor of a building which was erected to serve the purpose of a sanitarium, proposed to me, a few months ago, that it should be converted into a branch of this institution, and said that, if the offer should be accepted, he and his friends would purchase stock to the

amount of eighteen thousand dollars. I consulted immediately all the members of the County Medical Society residing in Saratoga Springs, who received the proposal with great favor, and signed unanimously the subjoined indorsement:

"We, the undersigned, members of the Medical Faculty of Saratoga Springs, after a careful examination of the principles and purposes of the Columbian Institute for the Preservation of Health and the Cure of Chronic Diseases, recently organized in the City of New York, have great pleasure in giving it our full and unqualified indorsement. We regard it as a necessity of the age, furnishing the profession with agencies and appliances which are absolutely essential to the proper and successful treatment of many forms of chronic disease, and which can only be made available to the Faculty at large by putting them into public institutions under the charge of thoroughly educated and authorized medical men.

"And we hail with profound satisfaction a proposition which has been made to found at once in this city a branch of this organization. New York is not more certainly the proper locality for the primary institution than Saratoga, with its world renowned mineral waters, is for the first great branch. To this famous summer resort, the patients subjected to treatment during the winter in New York would gladly come in the season when even those who are in health are wont to make their escape from the hot and impure atmosphere of that metropolis, while others might prefer it at any and at all times, in consequence of the fame of its springs, its quietness and manifold advantages.

"We, therefore, earnestly hope that the necessary funds

may soon be furnished by capitalists to raise the original institution to its ideal dimensions, and to establish a branch here on a scale commensurate with its importance. The remarkable and inseparable combination which the Columbian Institute in its nature affords of the elements of profit and charity so generally incongruous and antagonistic in the affairs of this world, commends it to the common wisdom as well as to the Christian benevolence of mankind."

In a letter which I lately received from the Hon. Israel Washburn, Jr., ex-governor of Maine, he says: "I marvel that institutions for the treatment and cure of chronic diseases have not long ago been established in different cities."

The authorities of Mount Sinai Hospital, in a report published some time ago, admitted its inability to receive chronic cases, and affirmed the necessity of an institution devoted exclusively to their care and treatment. And in the *New York Herald* of the third of this month there is an account of an interview between a reporter of that paper and Mr. Ludlam, the superintendent of the New York Hospital, in which the latter gentleman is represented as saying: "For the treatment of chronic cases there is a great want in this city. With the exception of the Home for Incurables, there is no place except Bellevue where such sufferers can be sent. We attend to many here, but such cases mean months of lingering pain and constantly impending dissolution. With the amount of business they have at Bellevue, it is impossible to give chronic cases the attention they deserve, and an institution especially for such cases is a great desideratum."

The absolute necessity of an institution of this nature, which shall truly represent the highest culture and the

best skill of the profession, is thus admitted on every side.

It is seen that it will supply a great deficiency—that it will confer a new and invaluable blessing upon the community, and upon all the sufferers whencesoever they may come who may need its help ; that it will furnish important accommodations and benefits to the medical profession at large ; that it will relieve the general hospitals from incessant applications which they cannot accept, and which, nevertheless, it is painful to reject ; that by a formal connection with the surrounding dispensaries it will afford them the use of its agencies, and thus, with other practicable changes in their arrangements, enable them to perform effective service, and fulfil the beneficent purposes for which they were established ; and that it may lead the way for the release of the Charity Hospital from its present hopeless occupation, and for its conversion into a Home for Incurables, for which its site on the Island so eminently fits it.

We have taken all the preliminary steps and laid a foundation upon which we ask you to assist us in our endeavor to rear a superstructure which shall be commensurate with the great interests which it is intended to subserve. It is no longer a scheme of a solitary mind ; but a scheme sustained and commended by all classes and professions, and now adopted and managed by a body of intelligent and influential citizens, and a board of medical men, chosen as specialists of great ability, who, already, have attained a high position, and who only require an opportunity on a large scale to become distinguished as representatives in their several departments. Yet we do not propose to build at once our ideal structure. We believe in growth, and, therefore,

we have, at the outset, limited our capital to twenty-five thousand dollars. The elements of success in the paying section are so large and manifold, that nothing but the most reckless mismanagement could prevent our stock from reaching the highest point in the market. You will pardon me, however, if, as a member of a humanitarian profession, I leave to others the further discussion of financial matters, and turn for a moment to a more congenial theme.

It is more than six years since I began my public efforts for the attainment of this object. I have toiled by day and night, in season and out of season, through evil and through good report, animated by a quenchless faith that I should live to reap the fruit of my labors, and see the institution, in all the grandeur of its completeness, in successful operation. My inspiration has come, not from the hope of reward either in the form of money or honor, but from the cries of the despairing sufferers ringing forever in my ears, and from the unwavering assurance I have felt that their deliverance was at hand. But why should it take so long a period in this era of progress to carry out a project of such incalculable value? Why should the guests who are invited to this luxurious feast of beneficence so closely follow the example of those who were bidden to a great supper in the olden time? "And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife; and therefore I cannot come." Alas! in these latter days we have increased the number of excuses.

For one in the vigor of youth said, I am overburdened with engagements in benevolent enterprises ; I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I am growing old, and lo, these fifty years I have wrought in the vineyard of the Lord, and now I am weary and worn ; I pray thee have me excused.

And are these, then, verily the disciples of that exalted personage who came down from heaven to teach us that all our talents and possessions are gifts from his bountiful hand, which we should use, as his stewards, for the benefit of the race, for whose salvation, in the enthusiasm of his divine love, he endured a life of poverty, and died upon the cross ? Can any one imagine that if, during his earthly ministrations, a proposition fraught with blessings to the world had been presented to him, he would have turned away with cold indifference, or excused himself on the ground that he was overtaxed with work ? His nature was perfectly human, as well as perfectly divine, and “ in all points he was tempted as we are, and yet without sin.” In the synagogue and in the temple, in the street and on the mountain top, he labored assiduously day by day, not only in instructing the common people, who heard him gladly, but also in wrestling with the cavils and sophistries of his wily and dexterous opponents.

On one occasion, we are told, he was *wearied* with his journey, and sat *thus* on the well about the sixth hour. A woman came to draw water ; a woman who was living in sin. His great heart yearned over her in her ignorance and weakness, and after making himself known to her through his divine omniscience, he propounded to her that sublime truth which constitutes the basis of all genuine piety : “ God is a spirit, and they who worship

him must worship him in spirit and in truth." O, if he had yielded to his feeling of weariness, and simply remained silent, what a privation would the world have sustained in the absence from the writings of the Evangelists of the record of that momentous interview! And if, at that memorable hour when the women brought young children unto him that he should bless them, he had allowed his disciples to protect him from their importunity, instead of rebuking them with those immortal words: "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven," what a blot would have been cast upon the revelation of his grace, and what a rich and perennial fountain of consolation would have been denied to humanity throughout all the ages! A man is never more entirely in antagonism to the spirit and genius of Christianity than when he refuses to listen to an overture for the improvement of the condition of mankind because it is new. We should apply to all such cases the rule of the great apostle: "Be careful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." And when, through the pressure of engagements, or from any other cause, we cannot do much to help them forward, we should not forget that "He who giveth a cup of cold water to a disciple, in the name of a disciple, shall receive a disciple's reward." Nor should they who have grown gray in this service of mercy, excuse themselves on account of their age; for they have reached that point, in many instances, when, by the acquisition of knowledge, experience, reputation and wealth, they are just prepared to execute their highest and noblest achievements. They have gained, perchance, an accumulation of force which they should be proud to expend in the cause of benevo-

lence to the last moment of their earthly existence. By what authority shall they refuse any post of honor or duty, till he who assigns it shall summon them away to a loftier sphere, and say to them : " Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Abstract of the Speech of the Rev. R. S. Storrs, D. D.

I did not expect that I should be called upon to speak first on this occasion. Coming, as I do, from the other side of the water, I consider myself only a pilgrim here, as we do not propose to annex New York to Brooklyn yet.

Dr. Hartt has indulged in some severe strictures upon those who treat his appeals with indifference ; but in his reference to the Scriptures, I think he must have overlooked the passage in which our Saviour is represented as saying to his disciples : " Come, ye yourselves, apart into a desert place, and rest awhile ;" " for," it is added, " there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat."

When my attention was called by Dr. Hartt, some time ago, to this enterprise, of which he has just given to us such a grand and lucid presentation, I saw at once its great merit, yet I feared that it was on a scale too broad and extensive to be readily carried out ; but the more I have thought of it, the better I have liked it, and now I am convinced that it is entirely practicable, and eminently worthy of the support of all who take an interest in the relief of suffering humanity.

The energy and self-sacrificing devotion with which

the Doctor has prosecuted it for years, amid difficulties and discouragements, have excited my admiration. He has given me a new inspiration; he has taught me a lesson which I shall never forget; I am greatly indebted to him, and, therefore, I am here.

The best way, perhaps, to realize how great a blessing an institution such as is here proposed would be to the world, is to suppose that it had been established and in operation ten or twenty years; could anything induce us to give it up? Would the people, for any consideration, forego its benefits? It would be a Bethesda, a fountain of health, the very existence of which would inspire new hope and joy in the hearts of thousands of disconsolate sufferers, and to which they would repair in multitudes from every quarter.

Speech of the Rev. J. P. Newman, D. D.

I do not know that there is much left for me to say, since the object of this meeting has been so fully set forth. I may as well, perhaps, begin by stating, in reply to a remark which has been made, that when we want Brooklyn, we will go over and take it, and Dr. Storrs with it.

I have known Dr. Hartt for some time, and have become deeply interested in his enterprise. But men of his class occupy an advanced ground, and seldom succeed in carrying out their projects by their own efforts alone. They generally require the interposition of middlemen, to take them by the hand on one side, and the people on the other, and bring them together.

I hope Dr. Storrs will not think me heterodox when I

say, that the miraculous cures of former times were the results of the operation of laws which, though they were perfectly natural, were not understood, and that the time will probably come when, by the progress of science, we will arrive at a knowledge of those laws, and be able to perform similar works in the ordinary routine of medical practice.

The proposed Institution, with others of a like character which will inevitably grow out of it, will exert a powerful influence in the furtherance of this important end.

In this, as in other causes, there is nothing so much to be dreaded and deprecated as incredulity and despair, for they necessarily lead to failure, surrender and stagnation. I admire the courage and persistence which Dr. Hartt displays in contending with diseases which have long been abandoned by others as incurable, as well as in battling with the apathy and prejudices of the people, while laboring to establish this noble Institution. It is not often that we can put a heart under the ribs of death; but now we can; and there is the Hartt. I trust that he will soon receive from capitalists the aid to which he is entitled, and that he will live to complete the work which he has so wisely and skillfully begun. I extend to him my hand, my heart and my purse, and my prayer shall ever be that God will crown both him and the Institution with His heavenly benediction.

Address of A. W. Budlong, Esq.

I have very little to say on this occasion, gentlemen. I am a business man, and making speeches is somewhat out of my line; but I can say in all sincerity, that I be-

lieve the Columbian Institute, as it is proposed by Dr. Hartt, is intended and calculated to supply a want much felt; in fact, to supply an actual necessity in our community—in every community—for the benefit of a large class of people who are now suffering from what are understood to be incurable chronic diseases. People are led to believe that they are incurable because they are told so by the physicians who have treated them, and have only been able to afford temporary relief; and because they have expended their money in every possible direction; have gone to all kinds of springs, and have tried every remedy that has been recommended by their friends, with the same unsatisfactory results. Now, gentlemen, that was my own experience for fourteen years, during all which time I was a sufferer with, I believe they called it, sciatica, but I would call it, agony, running all down through my lower limbs. I tried everything, everywhere, but with only temporary relief. I have been laid up from my business for weeks and months at a time. I about made up my mind that I never would be any better, and when Dr. Hartt called to see me, through the request of a friend who had heard of his cures (I didn't send for him), I told him it was of no use; I didn't believe he could do anything more for me than had been done; that I didn't intend that the doctors should get any more of my money; that my pocket book was locked up; so there was no use of talking any more about it. And that was just the way I felt, gentlemen. The doctor talked to me awhile, asked me several questions in regard to my case, and then told me that I might keep my money and pocket book locked up, and might keep my sciatica, too, if I liked; but that I could be cured; and that he would undertake to treat me with that end in view without money

or pocket book. But, to make it short, gentlemen, I gave my consent for him to attend me ; and for more than a year now I have been able to take full charge of my business. I have myself been surprised at the result. I never expected to be in the good condition I am now ; and I feel that I have been entirely cured.

And now, in regard to the business part of this matter. While I do not entirely agree with those figures that were read by Dr. Hartt, I do feel very confident, on a purely business calculation, that this Institution can be established on a business footing immediately, and that in such a way as would be productive of an immediate profit on the amount invested. I believe that it could be commenced with a small part of the capital, invested in such a way as to afford, at once, a dividend of, say, six per cent.; and then that it might be enlarged and expanded, from time to time, until a much larger margin of profit, as much as twenty per cent., or more, might be reasonably anticipated. I believe it could be done, gentlemen ; and while it would render an unspeakable service to mankind by relieving the many thousands of afflicted and suffering people who would come there for treatment, after it was known there was such a place, it would prove to be a good investment to any one who should put his money into it.

Address of Mr. James A. Lucas.

After what has been said by Dr. Hartt, and by the other eminent gentlemen who have spoken, and considering the lateness of the hour, I feel that a speech—as such—from me would be entirely superfluous. But I also feel that I am in a position in which I may say a few words on this occasion, with propriety, with emphasis, and with effect.

A proposition has been made by Dr. Hartt to found an institution for the cure of chronic diseases. Mark well, that he does not propose an institution to be used as a theatre for experimentation, but as a stage, upon which shall be demonstrated, on a large scale, the power of the art of medicine, when properly employed, to cure a great proportion of those inveterate maladies which are deemed by the people in general to be beyond its reach, and in which, confessedly, the medical establishments which are devoted to their treatment do not pretend to afford anything more than temporary relief.

Now, is Dr. Hartt acting in good faith in making his proposition? Has he produced any evidence to show that even a fair percentage of cases of these obstinate diseases can be radically and permanently cured? And is he sustained and indorsed by the medical faculty to which he belongs? In a book published by him with reference to this Institution, I find that the first step taken by him was to present his views on the prevention and curability of chronic diseases in an elaborate paper, which was read by him before one of the principal medical societies of New York, and that then, and not till then, he made a personal visit to every member of the profession residing in the city, and gave a detailed explanation of his plan, which, in a scientific point of view, was fully developed, and that four-fifths of that body gave their signatures to a document expressing their entire approval of the enterprise. I find, also, an array of evidence furnished by gentlemen of the highest standing in this community, belonging to different professions, and among them a number of medical men, all going to establish, in a manner absolutely irresistible, the ability of Dr. Hartt to carry out his pretensions, and to prove incontestably that

he does show his faith by his works. I do not know how it may seem to you, gentlemen, but to me there is something beautiful and marvellous in the almost unanimous indorsement given to this new, broad, and comprehensive scheme by the medical faculty of New York. It evinces a candor, liberality, and common sense, which reflect equal credit on their heads and their hearts; and I doubt not that when the capitalists, in response to their recommendation, shall supply the means to place the Institution on a permanent basis, they will be found ready to co-operate, in every way, to give it a true professional standing, to insure for it a scientific and financial success, and to enable it to accomplish all its beneficent purposes and designs.

With regard to the knowledge and skill of Dr. Hartt in his special department, permit me to bear witness, and speak that which I know, and testify to that which I have seen.

In the autumn of 1875, a man, who had suffered from rheumatic gout for upwards of thirty years, was stricken down with a severe attack. All the remedies which he had previously used, with more or less temporary benefit, utterly failed; and these were the various panaceas prescribed by different physicians of the regular faculty, followed by the pellets of a homœopathist of excellent standing in his school, who finally pronounced the case as one which "baffled" him. The man then resorted to special remedies without number, and without success; and subsequently to clairvoyance, which, after a trial of six weeks, he gave up as fruitless. He laid on his bed helpless, with both knees and feet terribly inflamed, not able to move. He could not have stood on his feet if a fortune had been offered him to do so. Helpless, indeed!

and to all intents and purposes, hopeless. The sole prospect before him was that of a miserable existence to the end; a living death, in which he could only be a burden to himself and his friends. He was in this condition seven months, when he read in the newspapers a report of a meeting in the rooms of the Young Men's Christian Association, for the establishment of a hospital for the cure of chronic diseases. He did not suppose, from his limited income, that he could obtain the services of Dr. Hartt; but through a friend who, he learned, was acquainted with him, he sent him a message to please come to see him. You, gentlemen, have probably surmised, by this time, that the person I have been speaking of is myself.

Well, Dr. Hartt came to see me very promptly, and certainly his examination of me was very different from any that I had had before. When he got through, he said, "Well, young man, you ought not to lie here very long; I can cure you." "That sounds very good, Doctor; but I have had it told me before; yet I am glad, indeed, to hear you say so; for I am here as a drowning man, ready to grasp at the last straw; anything that will rescue me from the miserable state in which you see me; but, Doctor," I said, "what is it going to cost me? My means are limited." Never will I forget the magnanimity with which he met me. "What," he asked, "can you afford to pay me per week?" I said, "that's a funny way to pay." "It may be," he said, "but it is my way; for, then, if I desire to see you three or four times a day, either for your benefit, or for my own satisfaction, I will feel no embarrassment in doing so, because you will know that I am not running up a bill against you." I named a sum which I feared would not be sufficient, but he instantly accepted it.

His treatment of my case was entirely different from any I had ever experienced, and I cannot but feel now, at this time of my life, that the same treatment, at the commencement of my illness, would have saved me from many years of suffering and loss.

After thirteen days had elapsed, one morning I stood up on my feet, at my bedside, without pain, and with tears of joy I called my wife from an adjoining room to come and see me. In a few days after this I was able to walk about my rooms, with a cane. I continued to improve day by day. Dr. Hartt began to attend me on the 26th of March, 1876, and on the 8th day of May following, I was reinstated in my position, which I had lost on account of my protracted disability. The treatment was pursued until the 26th of September, of the same year, when I felt that I was a new man. Those who knew me feel that my restoration to health was a miracle. I have been able, since, to do very many things in the way of manual labor, that I never dreamed that I should be able to do. And now, if the roofs of the houses in this city and elsewhere could be lifted up, how many thousands of just such helpless and hopeless human beings would be seen, who could, through the influences and benefits of the Columbian Institute, be rescued from their miserable estates, and restored to lives of usefulness to themselves, to their families, and to society?

You all know with what zeal and perseverance, and tenacity of purpose Dr. Hartt has labored in this cause; and while I am not in a position to subscribe for stock, I have said to him: "At any hour of the day or night, in sunshine and in storm, at any, and at all times, whenever you want me, command me." And this, entirely from motives of gratitude, and without any expectation of remuneration.

The following letters have been received since the meeting :

BROOKLYN, *Dec. 2, 1881.*

DEAR DR. HARTT :

I telegraphed a long dispatch to my friends at Providence, but it was of no avail. They had put me on their programme to begin the course, and had sent out about a thousand cards, and so I had to pack up and hurry off, with so many things unattended to, and among them a due explanation of the matter to yourself.

I returned last evening, but have not had time to see any one who may have been at your meeting. I trust that you had a successful beginning, and that all went off well, regretting that I could not be with you, but hoping that your enterprise, which is altogether so worthy of the sympathy and support of the public, will be carried forward to its consummation.

Sincerely yours,

A. P. PUTNAM

182 MAIN ST., BURLINGTON, VT.,

November 26, 1881.

MY DEAR DR. HARTT :

I regret exceedingly that it will be impossible for me to attend your meeting on the evening of the 30th inst. Nothing, I assure you, would give me so much pleasure as to present myself a living witness to your unfailing skill and patient persistence in the treatment and *cure* of chronic diseases ; for to you I owe my life.

As I am not to be with you in person, I embrace this opportunity of testifying to my utterly hopeless condition, when a kind Providence placed me in the care of the only physician who ever said, "I can cure you."

As you know, for six years before being placed under your treatment, I had been an invalid. Dyspepsia, in its worst form, confined me a great part of that time to a diet of raw beef. Also, rheumatism, with its terrible

sufferings, had been mine to endure for years. My liver was badly diseased—so much so, that to lie down, or sit up, or turn myself in bed, caused me most excruciating pain. There were, likewise, grave complications in other internal organs. Indeed, I had become so frail that my attending physician thought that I could not bear any treatment, or take any medicine except of the mildest character.

It was at this critical period that light dawned into my darkened life, by your glad words of assurance that my sufferings and hopeless condition need not continue. Is it any wonder that, now in the blessed possession of health, and having been restored, seven years ago, from entire helplessness to a life of enjoyment and usefulness, I realize the utter poverty of words to express my gratitude to you?

I would it were in my power to awaken an interest in the public to the great necessity of the institute for which, my dear Doctor, you have so long labored.

That God will speed this great and noble enterprise, for which there is such urgent need, is the earnest prayer of yours very gratefully,

MINA A. WALKER.

NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND, *Jan.* 23, 1882.

DEAR DR. HARTT:

I really hope your undertaking may be a success, for your city stands in need of just such an Institution; and who is more fitted to be at the head of it than yourself?

You will, I know, be pleased to learn that I have had no return of the asthma since you ceased to treat me for it in 1871; and when I look back to the suffering I had gone through for nearly thirty years with that illness, I feel grateful to you for eradicating it.

The next time I come to your city, I shall certainly call on you, and trust you will be able to say that your cherished hope is realized.

I am yours faithfully,

GEORGE COLLINS.

*Manhattan Railway Co., 71 Broadway, }
Office of Auditor,
New York, January 30, 1882. }*

H. A. HARTT, M. D.

My Dear Doctor :—After reading the book entitled the *Columbian Institute*, and noting the many instances of cures in cases of chronic diseases contained therein, I am prompted to add my testimonial of gratitude for the skill you displayed in delivering me from a painful existence.

About May 1, 1881, I was stricken with acute rheumatism, which confined me to my bed for three weeks. Toward the close of May I left my room, presenting the appearance of a cripple, for the disease had settled in my feet, stiffening the joints, and rendering walking a matter of the greatest difficulty.

From this time until the 28th November, when I had the extreme good fortune to fall into your hands, I suffered continually, though never ceasing to follow the advice of my physicians, and doing all that could possibly be done in order to effect a cure, including an extended visit to the sulphur springs, which afforded me slight temporary relief only.

It may astonish you, but it is, nevertheless, true, that I began to seriously consider what chances I had for ever being entirely cured, for, in spite of the pains I was taking to eradicate the disease, I gradually grew worse as the season of winter approached; walking only when actually compelled to do so; mindful of every step I took, owing to the pain which shot through my system from the effort; unable to raise my left arm, which had been attacked while I was undergoing treatment. I was nearing the verge of despair when, fortunately, your appearance brightened the horizon of my existence, and, in consequence, I am to-day in the possession of fast improving health.

The rapidity with which I improved under your care was simply marvellous, and has never ceased to excite my admiration and gratitude.

To illustrate this, let me say, it was on the 28th of November that I first called at your office, suffering intensely on account of my crippled condition. On the 28th of December, exactly one month later, I attended a party, whereat, to my own surprise and that of those present who were familiar with the nature of my illness, I danced repeatedly, and without pain. Thus it appears that the many months of suffering which I underwent would possess a more pleasant place in my recollection, had our first meeting occurred on the 28th of May, instead of six months later, and this consideration brings most forcibly to my mind the urgent need that exists in this great metropolis for an institution such as the Columbian Institute, wherein those afflicted with chronic diseases may be cured, and many years of anticipated pain changed to years of happiness.

In conclusion, let me express the hope that this humane project, to which you have devoted so many years of labor, may soon be carried to its full completion, from which the community at large will derive manifold advantages, for, having the unqualified indorsement of the Medical Faculty of this city, who agree that such an institution would be of incalculable benefit to suffering humanity, and presenting unmistakable evidences of its usefulness, it calls for all the aid that can be afforded a great and noble work.

Very respectfully yours,

E. F. J. GAYNOR.

NEW YORK, *March 27, 1882.*

HENRY A. HARTT, M. D.

48 EAST 23D STREET.

DEAR SIR: I am very glad to know that you are taking steps to open in this city an institute for chronic diseases. I am sure it will be a success. I will always remember with pleasure the intelligence and skill you showed in the treatment of my case. I had suffered many years with chronic gastrodynia, and you effected a permanent cure in a short time; and I hope you will soon be at the head of an institution where your skill will be utilized by having about you all the appliances, mechanical and other, that may be needed.

Yours very truly,

CALEB B. KNEVALS.

